Pre-AMDT A2673
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Attorney's Docket No.: 07844-416001 / P380

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bruce E. Kaskel
Serial No. : 09/765,957
Filed : January 19, 2001
Title : APPROXIMATING GRADIENTS WITH OFFSET MIDPOINTS

Art Unit : 2673
Examiner : Unknown

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1

-- The three values that are computed are, maximum vertical error for point x_n (304), a speed factor *a* (306) and a next "x" value (x_n+1) (308). The speed factor *a* is equal to the error that was calculated for a given iteration minus the tolerance T divided by the derivative *d* where: --

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2

-- Thereafter, a check is made to determine if the absolute value of the speed factor *a* is greater than a fixed number (310). In one implementation, the fixed number is a small non-negative number, such as 0.0001. If the absolute value is greater, then a next *x* is selected (*n* is increased by 1 where x_n+1 is selected closer to S_i) (312) and the process returns to step 304. Otherwise, the point (x_{n+1} , x_{n+1}^e) is recorded as the next segment point (314) and S_i (the prior segment point) is set as x_{n+1}. In one implementation, the next "x" (x_{n+1}) is selected in

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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